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Georgia Library Quarterly, Spring 2010

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From the President	by Carol Stanley	▶ 2
My Own Private Library	by Steve W. Schaefer	▶ 4
We Love Libraries	by Sally Reed	▶ 6
The importance of being earnest: A librarian's approach to academic leadership	by Susan G. Broome	▶ 7
Library home page design: The artist-librarian perspective	<i>A COMO White Paper</i> by Virginia C. Feher	▶ 12
Mindful leadership	by Lyn Hopper	▶ 15
Inaugural Georgia Libraries Photo Contest a success		▶ 18
In the News		▶ 22
Off the Shelf		▶ 30

On the COVER

P.J. Ball, 4, loves to read, and he does so often in the Neva Lomason Memorial Library's children's room in Carrollton. Judges for the inaugural Georgia Libraries Photo Contest selected this entry as the best photo of a child reading. Georgia's annual Summer Reading Program begins in May. This year's theme for children is "Make a Splash – READ." For teens, the 2010 theme is "Make Waves ... @ your library." (Photo by Martha Goodson)



From the PRESIDENT

Happy spring, GLA! Brrr... the snow is behind us, and summer reading is around the corner as 2010 rolls right along. And we've already been "making a splash" — that's this summer's reading theme for those of you not in the know about life in children's services in public libraries!

We had record attendance at our GLA Mid-Winter Planning Conference at Clayton State University on Jan. 29. Before we scattered to meet in divisions, committees and interest groups, Dr. Jim Carmichael, professor of library and information studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, regaled us as one. His entertaining tales of those early librarians of the South included one whose "face could stop a clock," but SHE got that Atlanta Young Men's Library whipped into shape while the men gambled and drank. But for those who didn't have a chance to listen to these shocking tales of days gone by, we hope to have Jim back down to his home state again soon.

Georgia's inaugural Library Photo Contest (see page 18) was a success, with more than 70 entries for the 10 categories for pictures taken between Jan. 1-Feb. 14. Congratulations to Vickie Horst for winning for Best Overall Photo! Thanks go to David Baker and Julie Walker for coordinating the contest and to David for creating the Library Day display.

Library Day was rescheduled due to the called recess of the Georgia

General Assembly. We asked the governor to change his Georgia Library Day Proclamation to reflect our change in plans, and he did! The proclamation was drafted by Joe Barnes, of the GLA Governmental Relations Committee, with contributions from others. Our coinciding Virtual Library Day through ALA's sponsored Capwiz legislative alert program made it easy for those who could not attend in person to participate. It takes all of us to make this advocacy day a success! I'd like to thank Chris Huff, Governmental Relations Committee chair; GLA Administrative Services personnel Kara Mullen, Bob Fox and Gordon Baker; and Lyn Hopper and Lamar Veatch and all the GPLS staff involved.

ALA President Camila Alire will be giving a workshop on "Frontline Advocacy" on April 26 in Decatur at DeKalb Public Library. Her workshop will help all of us on the frontlines to be able to spread the message of the valuable services we offer every day to anyone. Registration forms are available on the GLA Web site.

More fantastic learning opportunities are available from the GLA Professional and Continuing Education Interest Group, co-chaired by Sarah Steiner and Pat Carterette.

And lastly, your COMO Steering Committee has shifted into high gear for another wonderful annual library media joint conference in Athens, Oct. 13-15. This year's theme will be "Celebrate With One Voice — COMO XXII." A year of celebration is called for as our partnerships and collaborations flourish. We will also be celebrating GALILEO's 15th birthday, so our conference will be a celebration of all types of libraries coming together to learn and share from each other. Presentation Proposal forms are available online.

Don't "unfriend" GLA ... renew your commitment to attend GLA "CAMP"— Celebrating Advocacy Membership and Partnership — throughout 2010! ►►

— **Carol Stanley**
President
Georgia Library Association

Unshelved

by Bill Barnes & Gene Ambaum



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Front row, from left:
Lora Mirza, Susan Cooley
and Jeff Heck. Back row,
from left: David Baker,
Sarah Steiner, Karen
Odom, Julie Walker and
Laura Burtle. Not
pictured: Brijin Boddy
and Ann Vidor.



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My Own PRIVATE LIBRARY

A peek inside the personal library of a librarian

by Steve W. Schaefer

Hello, my name is Steve and I am a biblioholic.

My addiction to books started when I discovered the bargain table at a local chain bookstore in my hometown. I had to buy a book, just about any book, every time I went there.

I never got into mainstream fiction. I didn't see the point, except for Charles Dickens. He was like reading a movie. And books about time travel: I read Jack Finney's *Time and Again* and became addicted to that genre, but please don't tell anybody. People might think I collect action figures and attend Star Wars conventions, which I don't.

I liked some mysteries because they were not as stultiloquent and filled with pretentious puffery as general fiction.

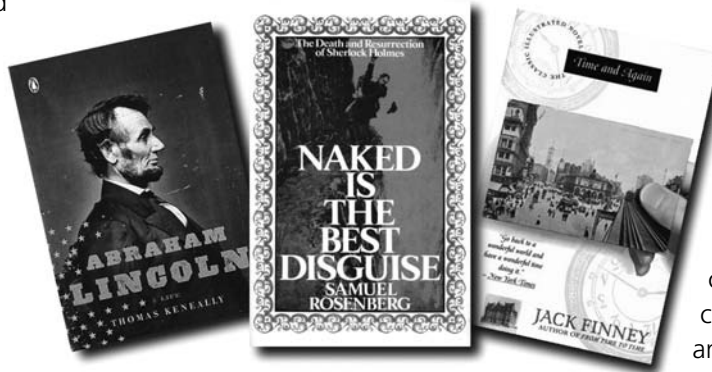
My obsession was so out of control that I joined book-of-the-month clubs — all of them. Even the cheap ones that printed books on pages made from balsa wood and put together with the cheapest glue in Christendom.

Four decades later, I am not doing a very good job of controlling myself. On the day I am typing this article, I have, according to my inventory (www.librarything.com/home/sws53), 6,904 books. Go ahead ... take a look; be my guest. I'll wait.

I mean, I have tried to control my obsession ... by specializing.

I think an aunt bought me my first book on Abraham Lincoln. I was so young that when I saw another book on Lincoln at a bookstore, I was astounded and had to have it. Then I had two books. It was a collection. I felt I was now an expert on the 16th president and had to buy any Lincoln book I found. It was my duty. This "duty" continues to this day. I have 734 books on Lincoln.

However, by the time you read this article, I will have more. 2009 was the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth. I am going bankrupt from trying to keep up with new books on Lincoln.



As an aside: In the seventh grade, I had to make a speech about my interests in speech class. I spoke on my Lincoln book collection. A classmate felt compelled to make fun of me and thought it would be clever to call me "Hitler." He kept

that up for five years. His logic eludes me to this day. Anyway, if you know him or come across him — for example, when you visit a prison — please kick him in the keester for me. Tell him "Hitler" sent you. His name is Kevin Snow, former attendee of North Kirkwood Junior High. OK. I am joking; don't use violence on my account. Just call me and tell me where he lives.

I should, at this point in my narrative, describe my discovery of "Heaven." After I escaped the suburbs, I found, in the more decrepit sections of towns and cities, a bookstore of another order. It was a used book store. Who needed to go on a safari with flies and heat and smelly animals, when one could go through used books stores hunting for prey? What I could not find in new

book stores, I could find in used book stores. Admittedly, I have been in some used book stores that were hot, filled with flies and had smelly animals ... of the bipedal variety.

And then Sherlock Holmes entered my life. I was married and had my library degree when I went again to the bargain table and found Samuel Rosenberg's *Naked is the Best Disguise: The Death and Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes*. I didn't understand a word of it, but I was hooked. Now my Sherlock Holmes collection has 346 books. My interest has somewhat faded over the years, especially after the genre was glutted by greedy writers eager to profit from indiscriminate addicts as was I. My most valuable (and perhaps treasured) edition of my Holmes collection is a paperback, in mint condition, that depicts Holmes and Watson as gay lovers. It is robustly pornographic and was never intended to appeal to the traditional collector but, ironically, is now lusted after by Sherlockians all over the world. I haven't been able to track down a copy of the nudie magazine that featured the clothed Holmes and Watson (apparently) investigating a crime in a nudist colony.

As library school students at Florida State University, we toured the Shaw Collection. It had children's poetry books. I thought that was kind of cool, but since I am allergic to poetry... and to children, I felt compelled to find another area of interest. I liked book illustrations; it is the poor man's art collection. So I decided to collect illustrated editions of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Surely, I could buy every illustrated edition that existed. Not so easy.

In those pre-Internet days, I had to search titles from book catalogs. There are bibliographies to find various editions to seek and possess (the biblioholic credo), but none are complete. At present I have 361 editions not counting my "reference books" on "ACC." I have many editions that appear nowhere in WorldCat.

I found one title in a bibliography that was curious. It was a "very limited" illustrated edition published by a technical high school in Van Nuys, California in 1934. Even the illustrations were by a student. WorldCat let me know that the Library of Congress was one of seven

libraries that owned a copy. So when I was in Washington, D.C., for a library meeting, I hopped over to the LC to give it a gander. When I submitted my request, I waited at one of those desks. And waited. And waited. After asking for the book again, I was told that it apparently was lost. I was crestfallen. Eventually, I found a copy. I bought it. The illustrations are profoundly amateur but that doesn't matter, it is the pursuit.

I have every illustrated edition in English listed in all the various bibliographies and then some. The "some" in the previous sentence includes versions in languages other than English. I also have coloring books, comic books, magazines and items not within the purview of this article such as DVDs, videos, LPs, cassettes, puzzles, paintings, drawings, toys, ornaments and so on.

One edition eludes me. It taunts me. There is only one copy (according to WorldCat) in libraries in the world; it is at the Harry Ransom Center (University of Texas, Austin). It was published in 1911 in London by a religious publishing house known as Robert Scott. There are eight illustrations.

I must have this book. I have to find it. I want it. I need it. I must possess it.

My name is Steve and I am a biblioholic. ►►

Steve W. Schaefer is former director of the Madison-based Uncle Remus Regional Library System. Now retired, he is likely on a book safari as you read this.



Update: I found it! I found the Robert Scott book! It was glorious, but the joyous feeling is now fading. But worry not for me because there is another book I want ... in Italian ... only 100 copies were printed. I ordered it. And it is on its way... but I can't wait ... I cannot wait.

There is always the next conquest ... the next acquisition.

— Steve W. Schaefer
March 2010



We Love LIBRARIES!

Libraries are the answer to difficult times

by Sally Reed

As Woody Allen said, “Money is better than poverty, if only for financial reasons.”

For libraries, money is definitely better than poverty, but, unfortunately, this all-important commodity is evading them more and more. Instead of spending all their time planning and delivering top-quality services, library directors are often finding that much of their time is being spent trying to stretch a declining budget dollar to cover the costs of services for increasing numbers of patrons.

Directors are also working hard across the country to convince their funders that libraries are even *more* important during tough times and that there is not a greater “bang for the buck” to be found.

Here’s the reality – library directors usually can’t make the case for library funding effectively without the help of those who use, love, support and govern libraries – in other words, friends and trustees.

Increasingly, these library lovers are becoming library advocates. The days of resting on the laurels of the notion that a library is a self-evident good are over. These are the days of competing voices for the tax dollars that citizens are often loathe to increase for any reason.

Enter the “new” division of the American Library Association (ALA) called the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations – or ALTAFF for short. This division of ALA is devoted entirely to helping citizens who support libraries maximize their effectiveness at the local and state levels. This means providing trustees and friends with information on best practices in areas such as advocacy, fundraising, governing and promoting libraries.

ALTAFF provides its members with a meaty newsletter that shares these best practices from across the country every other month. We also provide toolkits, consulting services, fact sheets and soon – webinars – to help network and educate these library heroes who are otherwise fairly isolated from other boards and groups across the country.

In this time of economic distress, many communities are watching their libraries reduce hours and services – or close altogether. Yet, for most communities, libraries only expend 2-3 percent of the total tax dollar on the state and local level. In some cases, even less. When we hear our funders say that all budgets have to be cut, we have to ask, how will cutting libraries – a minuscule amount of any city, county or state

budget — bring about the economic recovery we’re all looking for?

Libraries are the answer to difficult times, offering job-seeking opportunities, free continuing education and learning opportunities, and free ways for citizens to find joy and entertainment in a good book or movie.

Citizens who love and use libraries must exercise the power of their voices to ensure that libraries get the funding they need to carry out their critical mission in their communities. They must ensure that funders know the old saw is true, “Libraries can get you through times of no money better than money can get you through times of no libraries.”

ALTAFF is committed to helping turn passive support by library lovers into knowledgeable, powerful action! For more information about ALTAFF, go to ala.org/altaff or call 800-545-2433, ext. 2161. ►►

Sally Reed is executive director of the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations, a division of the American Library Association. ALTAFF is the result of the merger of Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA), which Reed headed, and the former Association of Library Trustees and Advocates (ALTA).

The importance of being earnest: A librarian's approach to academic leadership

by Susan G. Broome

Abstract

When accepting universitywide leadership roles, academic librarians bring skills in partnering, administration and sharing information that can build trust, lead to informed decisions, promote good will and strengthen the organization. Service in this capacity requires an understanding of and an appreciation for the community that resides within the institution.

Introduction

In taking leadership positions, it is important to me to act with integrity, strengthen the organization and leave an uncluttered path for those who follow me. A recent reading of Hugh Heclo's *On Thinking Institutionally* and Malcolm Gladwell's *Outliers: The Story of Success* has led me to consider some of the influences that guided my two years of service as chair of the House of Delegates, a representative body of faculty members from 11 schools and colleges and the University Libraries at Mercer University.

Both books emphasize community, Gladwell's pointing to the importance of opportunity and legacy with a strong emphasis on the amount of time and passion that must be invested for one to finally experience success. Who you are, where you have come from and the company you keep are as important as the sometimes-extraordinary occasions that open up for leadership. There must be both autonomy and complexity, engagement of the mind and the imagination, and a connection between effort and rewards to develop a meaningful purpose in life. A willingness to make sacrifices and live with expectation gives evidence of the value we place in individuals, causes and institutions. Our commitment to clear communication requires a multiplicity of forms — encouraging, calming, giving commands, cajoling, negotiating, and sharing

information — all of which indicate the respect with which we relate to those individuals who make up our communities.

Having grown up on the campus of a small private college and then spending much of my professional career at a larger private university, I have benefited from intellectual stimulation, a sense of community and an understanding of investing in both individuals and an institution. I developed a personal work ethic that values being consistent, responsible, thoughtful, trustworthy and fair. In the same environment, I learned to think independently, contribute toward larger purposes and respect diversity.

The writings of Hugh Heclo embrace the community bound up in institutions. This community exists because it was developed and valued in the past and then entrusted to the next generation. It is inherited and bequeathed, not with a sense of obligation by those within it, but with accountability, personal initiative and sacrifice. Individuals will fail the institution if they think and act without regard for the purposes it represents. They may have a healthy distrust of policies to follow or goals set before them, yet a strong institution will offer space for open-mindedness, doubt, judgment and inquiry. Institutions will fail us; however, living without expectations would be even more grievous. Duty and loyalty should not be lightly entrusted, but there can be satisfaction in being attentive to meaning in the world as part of an institutional community.

By nature, there is tension in the academic community between individualism and the institution. We revel in the thought processes, we value academic freedom, and we search for research materials to expand the minds of

students whom we actively engage in learning. Yet we must be accountable, and there are administrative necessities to allow for each of these activities. It is within the communities of institutions and professional organizations that I have found my voice. My focus has been on the description of and access to primary materials held in the archives and on the acquisition and cataloging of print and online resources within a complex university environment. My faculty status resides in the Division of Library Services.

With responsibility for providing technical services to libraries on two main campuses and four regional centers, I train others to balance the needs of all programs, all students and faculty, all campuses, all of the time. When I was elected chair of the House of Delegates, an advisory group to the president established by the university's board of trustees, I was conscious of the reputation librarians have as being impartial and cooperative. I was also well aware of my own affinity for administrative, technical and organizational work, and I believed my experience would serve the university well. My past had already brought me to several conclusions regarding leadership in an academic environment.

- Inclusiveness and partnering build trust, respect and a diverse community.
- Sharing information allows for better understanding of issues and more informed decisions.
- Acting as a representative with a strong sense of responsibility promotes good will.
- Strengthening an organization and its members leads to greater accountability.

The methods by which the House affirmed these principles under a librarian's leadership will follow.

Inclusiveness and Partnering

Even within the University Libraries, serving a myriad of programs across several campuses, there are perceived inequities of resources and personnel. Despite being hypersensitive about providing equal service whenever possible, it is easy to slip and appear insensitive. Collaboration is ingrained in me, and being objective and fair is part of my nature; yet it takes a conscious effort to involve all parties.

It is with this admission that I asked the executive committee to make a basic change in the House's meetings. For several years, they had been planned at

two locations on the main campuses with a telephone hookup. Having been on the "other" end of telephone conferences, I knew what was missed in such an arrangement. We scheduled two face-to-face meetings each year at a central location, an equal sacrifice to all who could attend, and attempted to hear from everyone who wanted input in the more frequent conference calls.

Inclusiveness meant choosing members to fill committee rosters with the various academic programs and all locations in mind. It meant requesting inclusive language in the Faculty Handbook on behalf of the library faculty, substituting the phrase "schools and colleges" with "academic units." Likewise a statement was added saying that every effort would be made "to rotate the chair-elect position among different academic units."

Partnership was a major factor in planning meetings in advance with guests whose knowledge and responsibilities were of importance to a majority of the group and would prompt active discussion. In preparation for newly established, full-House, semiannual meetings with the university president, the executive committee sought questions on a broad spectrum of subjects to submit to the president prior to his attendance.

Sharing Information

Effective dissemination of information is related to partnering, and who better than a librarian could begin conducting e-mail discussions for all delegates, alternates and ex-officio administrators? Deans were appreciative of the information they were privy to as the House deliberated issues such as the place of research in the university, academic attire for students, tuition waivers, Web publishing, international student admissions, religious observances, part-time faculty appointments, environmental responsibility, communication curriculum, e-mail usage and athletics. The subject lines of all e-mails related to House business began with "HoD" to make it easier for the receivers to locate them, and several news items were included in each e-mail to keep the total amount of correspondence in check.

A benefit of being the chair of the House is participating in numbers of campuswide meetings, and I consciously "participated" instead of only "attending." Those faculty and administrators who were present at meetings of the Academic Council, University Planning Council and the Educational Policy Committee of the board of trustees, to name a few, were eager to hear reports from the House of Delegates and engage in conversation about issues of importance to the faculty at large.

On the arrival of a new president, the University Planning Council began a comprehensive 10-year strategic plan. As the representative of the House, I was appointed to the metrics committee, charged with determining how the university would gauge its progress in meeting new standards. Budgets would be tied to these measures, and part of my role was to ensure that all faculties were considered during our deliberations and consulted when their input was needed.

Acting as a Representative

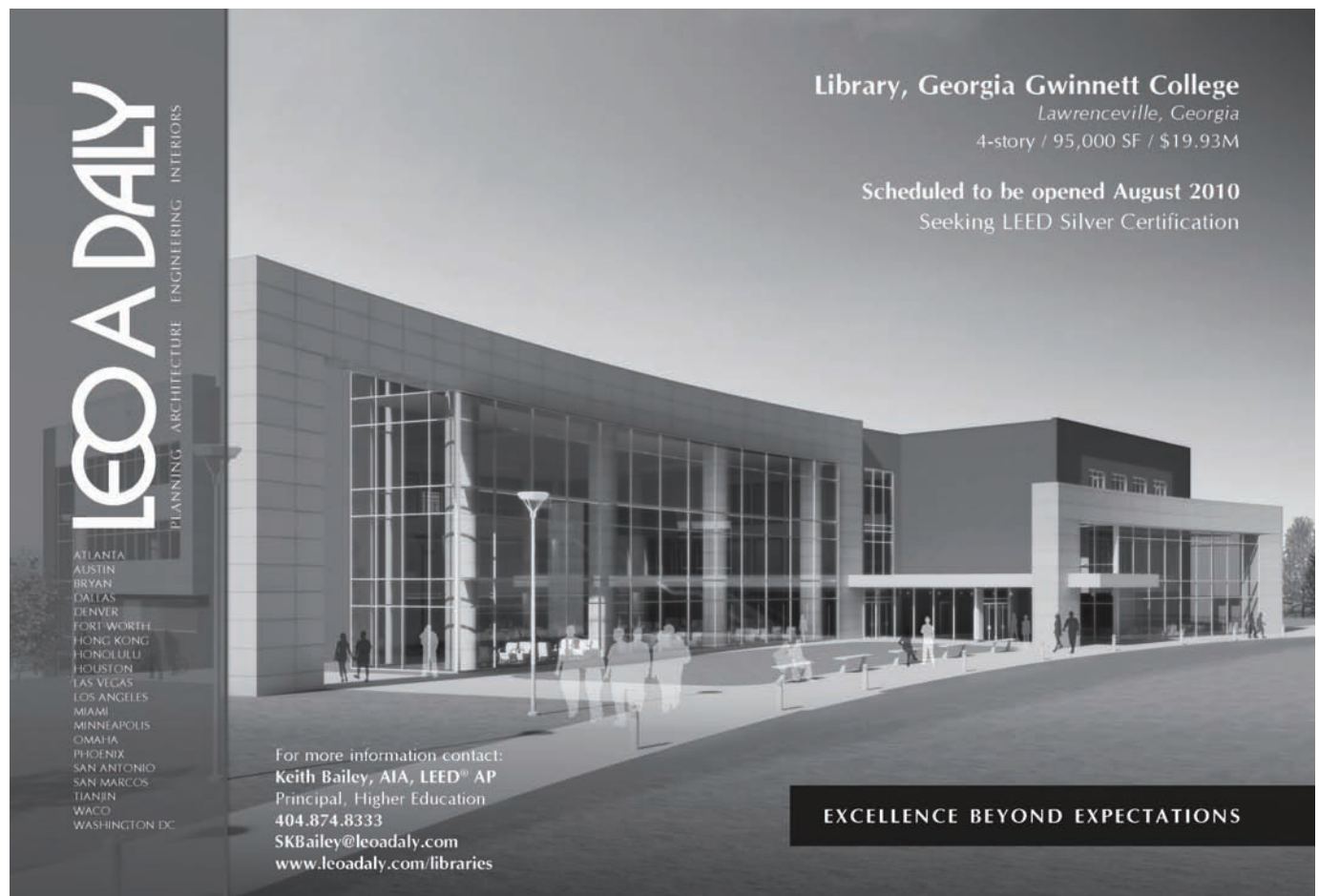
The chair of the House has a unique opportunity to represent the faculty throughout the university as an active participant in meetings and, occasionally, to the larger community through events and public media. On behalf of the House, I was involved in early conversations with the university's new president and vice president for administration and finance. In the first month of the president's tenure, I met with him personally and shared House documents that outlined what the faculties were thinking and how it compared with priorities recently set by the board of trustees. Later in the year, again as a representative of the House, I was involved in a nationwide search for the next provost. This was not a time to

hold back! Full engagement is only possible through careful study of related issues and a willingness to be the public face of an organization.

Similarly, I became the face of the library faculty to those with whom I met and worked. It was a role that gave me the opportunity to make others aware of library faculty responsibilities, areas of service, requirements for promotion, and expectations for involvement in scholarly activities. It made me more intentional in reminding my colleagues of the same role they play in every day-to-day encounter with faculty, students and administrators. I was keenly aware that I represented my dean, in particular, as well as my staff colleagues, many of whom were "picking up the pieces" while I was out of my office with House business. The visibility of the House through my involvement in these activities — as a librarian — promoted good will for both the House and the University Libraries.

Strengthening the Organization

Attendance at House meetings and involvement of delegates in deliberations often depend on the issues at hand or the guests invited to discussions. Strengthening



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EXCELLENCE BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

meant working with the executive committee on an ambitious agenda for all scheduled meetings from the first time it met, and delegates gained energy with this strong sense of direction. Open debate on academic issues allowed participation by the newest to the longest-tenured faculty delegates.

Strengthening also meant studying how, when and for what term delegates and alternates were selected each year and determining if the roster were full. For continuity, it seemed best to lengthen terms from two to three years. With some difficulties in filling positions of officers, it also made sense to ask the executive committee to serve as the nominating committee.


In response to increased attention to student and faculty research, the provost's office called for assistance from the House's standing research committee and from House-nominated members on new committees. Provisions for those committees were outlined in the Faculty Handbook with guidelines for appointing members from across the campuses. These members will

be accountable to their own faculty as they weigh issues related to funding of research initiatives, and there is high incentive to be an active participant in these discussions.

Strengthening Rights and Responsibilities of Faculty

Bylaws are never very interesting reading unless one is a first-year faculty member (and perhaps not even then)! However, they are of supreme importance in ensuring that faculty rights are upheld and that formal grievances proceed in a fair and timely manner. It is in attempting to adhere to bylaws during a grievance hearing that weaknesses in those bylaws can become most apparent.

The House considered it imperative to review this section of the Faculty Handbook following each such proceeding, and it benefited from naming the same members to the second review committee that it had on the first. The process was complicated and involved a great deal of collaboration among committee members representing several academic units. Advocating for faculty rights meant preserving the confidentiality of the grievances



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while communicating with key participants and working with the university counsel's office to make recommendations to the House, and ultimately to the president, for revisions.

These included replacing the word "promptly" with specific numbers of working days and specifying that hearings take place on the campus of the grieving faculty member. In addition, the revisions clarified the fact that a personal lawyer may advise the grievant but not actively participate in the hearing (this is an academic proceeding, not a legal one) and required a list of witnesses with varying viewpoints prior to the hearing. The bylaws now call for the grievance committee to produce written findings of fact for each allegation to submit to the provost. They also provide support for the committee chair during the grievance process by involving the House's executive committee as an advisory body in making decisions.

In calling for this review, the House gave full attention to faculty rights, learned from past experiences and enhanced a document that should be respected for its objectivity and integrity. Distinctions between tenured and nontenured faculty were sharpened, and faculty benefited by studying the contents of the Handbook that is the most accurate statement of their rights and corresponding responsibilities.

Conclusion

Since the House is largely made up of teaching faculty, and since I was relatively new to the House when I was elected, it would have been easy to second-guess my ability to tackle the issues that would arise over the next two years. Certainly there were times when I felt a bit inadequate for the task, yet by staying in close contact with the executive committee, I realized I was not alone in thinking that there were no easy answers! The confidence I had in being able to fulfill my responsibilities was born of a strong belief that there is a place at the table of any organization for everyone. Each of us has unique strengths, and with some persistence of our own and the cooperation of others, we can determine our roles.

One of the most important things I learned during my tenure as chair was the value of a fully engaged delegate. Though I appreciated the trust that members put in me, it was of little benefit when decisions were difficult and determined by a majority vote. Those who took the time and made the effort to understand the issues set before us became accountable by making their own judgments instead of depending on others. They made use of independent thinking and affirmed the future of the

organization at the same time. As representatives of their own faculties, they were being faithful to their purpose and nurturing a process that has already been passed to new leaders.

Malcolm Gladwell reminds us of potential, whether from legacy or opportunity, that can lead to some measure of success, either individually or as represented by a group. Hugh Heclo speaks of gratitude in being involved in meaningful work, of respecting the game in which we play and of giving our best efforts with little thought of receiving. Life is too complex to be lived as an individual, and I believe there is value in investing in select organizations that work toward the benefit of others. There will be many more members than chairs of organizations, but members can be leaders in their own right. Integrity, responsibility, depth, initiative — I hoped to bring each of these qualities to the office I accepted. Yet in the process, I came to a clearer understanding that leadership through membership, active membership, can be a high calling. ►►

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GLQ WHITE PAPER

Library home page design: The artist-librarian perspective

by Virginia C. Feher

Because the Web is a vital tool for the delivery of information and services to library users whose high expectations include seamless and fast access from anywhere, effective library home page design is essential to meeting their needs. But choosing the elements to include on a home page, in addition to combining them skillfully and attractively, can be a challenge. One practical approach to library home page design is to apply basic principles of art. Similar to a work of art, the composition, color and imagery of a home page affect how the viewer will scan the page, determining focal points and areas of lesser interest, while prioritizing and emphasizing content on a home page can be achieved by proper use of the visuals. The visuals, as a result of the Web's transformative influence on information delivery, have attained more prominence in the presentation of knowledge, increasing the importance of following the principles of art. A library home page designed from the perspective of the artist-librarian, this paper will explain, is more likely to be a successful one.

The mechanics of information delivery by a library are becoming increasingly more complicated because of the enormous amount of resources available both in print and online. Weintraub (1980), in

speaking of the abundance of print resources, posed this question: "Is there a necessary relation between more information and more meaningful knowledge?" (p. 38). Considering that the Web was not invented until a decade later, he was indeed prophetic in proposing a vision of the future librarian:

...a knowledgeable sluicemaker, a most sensitive filter, a wise cicerone who knows where what knowledge is available, how to get its essential parts, someone who does not block access but also someone who does not drown us in an unsorted morass of information. (Weintraub, 1980, p. 38)

In their efforts to be comprehensive and thorough on a home page, librarians may be drowning their users by offering too many avenues to information, overwhelming them with multiple links plus navigational tools such as tabs and drop-down boxes, therefore blocking access by making it more difficult to find what is needed. If Weintraub's advice is to be considered, library home page design should not just be about including as much information as possible but also about carefully filtering which elements to present along with combining them coherently and attractively so that a

user can easily find what is needed. An example of design practices that do not overwhelm the user with too much information is illustrated by Riley-Huff's (2009) examination of museum Web sites, which found that academic library Web sites tended to be text-based while museum Web sites were more visual (p. 80). She recommended using text prudently by "resisting the tendency to place a [link] to everything available on one page" (Riley-Huff, 2009, p. 86). Even though examining museum Web sites is useful, the works of art exhibited in museums can be a primary source of inspiration for library home page designers.

Before an academic library home page is designed, though, it is a blank canvas, and several highly recommended features to include should be considered. While home pages may differ based on the precise mission of an academic institution, basic information about the library including location, hours of operation and contact information should be provided as well as access to information about the library's collections and services. Duncan & Holliday (2008) found that users particularly looked for information about services such as interlibrary loan (p. 305). The popularity of Google implies that a search box is

the preferred method for information seeking, and it would be advantageous to the user for a search box to be more prominent and not just wedged in a far corner of the page. It can also be argued that a noticeable search box is necessary since many users find it preferable to using links for navigation (Nielsen, 2000, p. 168). A federated search box should be considered as a way to offer fast access to scholarly resources, and an interactive chat box such as Meebo could be a useful tool for helping users (Mathews, 2009, p. 25). Unfortunately, not all libraries have the resources to offer continuous chat reference; nonetheless, it is an efficient method for assisting users who are comfortable with technology. Aside from informational tools, promotional features should be included on a home page to advertise not only resources available from the Web site but also sponsored events such as guest speakers and film series. A home page is the perfect place to promote a library's events, services and resources; moreover, the promotional area itself can improve the appearance of a home page if attractive images are used. Ultimately, the appearance of a home page has a great effect on the users' experience, and a skillful presentation of features is necessary for effective information delivery.

Once these features for a home page are selected, they are combined, and this combination, like in a work of art, determines the composition of the page. Put simply, composition is the arrangement of the elements on the page, and, when arranging these elements on a home page, applying the basic principles of art such as emphasis, balance, harmony and movement is essential for a successful composition. Henri Matisse, the famous artist known for his use of pattern and color, in "Notes of a Painter," defined composition as "the

art of arranging in a decorative manner the diverse elements at the painter's command to express his feelings" (as cited in Flam, 1994, p. 36). A library's home page is similar to a painter's canvas in that both are rectangular in shape with well-defined boundaries, and the library Web designer, similar to an artist, arranges "diverse elements" in addition to emphasizing areas that they feel are more important. The challenge for library Web designers is defining which areas to emphasize. Holtze (2006) stated "Web designers in libraries face a particularly difficult challenge: selecting only a few salient pieces of information to highlight since each patron's desired outcome differs" (p. 97). Selecting which pieces to highlight is dependent on the library's user base, and usability testing may help in the final determination; even though areas should be emphasized, a cohesive arrangement is also desirable. Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, a 19th century French painter who "was indisputably the greatest portraitist of his age" (Shelton, 2008, p. 190), is known for his remarkably beautiful portraits that, despite areas of intricate detail, are successful in their composition because the viewer's eyes move across the whole canvas, finding enjoyment in the areas of detail, but, in the end, focusing on the area of emphasis, the subject's face. A successful composition is achieved by the proper application of the principles of art, and a home page, similar to Ingres' portraits, is successful when the viewer's eye comprehends the entire home page while at the same time recognizing areas of importance.

The use of color in a painting can provoke feelings of awe and inspiration in a viewer, and, just as color can bring a canvas to life, using color appropriately on a home page can result in a page that is stunning

and vibrant while supportive of information delivery. In the foreword to *Interaction of Color*, a monumental work on color theory by Josef Albers, a 20th century abstract painter and educator, Weber (as cited in Albers, 2006) concluded that Albers' experimentations with color "sought to engage rather than merely inform" (p. xi). The purpose of a library's home page is to inform; however, in order to inform, the viewer must be engaged, and a Web designer who knows how to use color can maintain the viewer's attention. Nonetheless, the library is the heart of the community, whether a small town or a large university, and using colors on a library home page related to the community will help in communicating to the user the academic library's role in serving the university. Even though school colors are often associated with sports and football, and a university library may want to emphasize academics over athletics, branding a Web site by using school colors can affirm the library's importance for, and attachment to, the university. Because the color palette for an academic library's home page is predetermined, using colors properly and harmoniously on a home page may be difficult, especially if the school colors are harsh, acrimonious and better suited for the visibility of a football jersey. In such cases, variations on school colors may be a good alternative, although the overall effect should fit with the school's color scheme.

Without imagery, a home page is not complete. Photographs and icons, for example, not only add decorative features but also provide a visual illustration of services in addition to creating the illusion of three-dimensionality. A home page that appears one-dimensional will less likely hold a viewer's attention than one with aspects of three-

dimensionality. Photography is an art form in and of itself, and including high-quality photographs on a home page can be a simple way to achieve depth and add color. Even so, it is not enough to include a pretty picture; the images should represent the library by promoting resources or services. Skillful use of subtle gradients, the gradual movement from dark to light, can imitate form and decrease flatness, while overuse of textured backgrounds, which are created by the repetition of small graphical files, can be distracting. When designing an academic library home page, a style suitable for information delivery, rather than one defined by the latest trend in Web design, is recommended. Styles of painting, created by major movements in art, can provoke varying reactions from the viewer. Picasso's cubist mural *Guernica*, a disconcerting geometric interpretation of the horrors of war, may inspire awe coupled with dismay, while the subtle beauty of impressionistic paintings, such as Monet's *Water Lilies*, may inspire quiet contemplation. Because the style, or look, of a home page can initially engage the user or cause them to lose interest, using a style that clearly communicates the purpose of the Web site, including the mission of the library, is vital. The style of an

academic library's home page should reflect the scholarly pursuits of the campus, namely its teaching and research activities, presenting information in a way suitable to this purpose. The style should be appropriate to the organization and its user base because as Riley-Huff (2009) stated, "engaging users starts by getting their attention on the site in ways that cater to the community" (p. 89).

To illustrate the argument for the combination of an artist-librarian, Marcel Duchamp might be considered. Duchamp, an early 20th century French painter, sculptor and writer, had a brief but unsuccessful stint as a librarian, which he explained as "a sort of grip on an intellectual position, against the manual servitude of the artist" (Cabanne, 1971, p. 41). Before the existence of the Web, there was little opportunity for the artist-librarian to effectively combine their skills as applied to librarianship; subsequently, Duchamp's resulting body of work, specifically sculptures composed of found objects, "decisively altered our understanding of what constitutes an object of art" (Naumann, 2009), redefining, in essence, what is, and isn't, art. The Web, while not a work of art, could be considered a visual

universe supplemented with textual information, greatly altering how libraries and librarians provide information services to their users. Because of the Web, the visuals have gained prominence in information delivery, and the importance of the visuals supporting information delivery on a home page and the effect on the users' experience in navigating the Web site cannot be overstated. Gibbs (2005) emphasized that "if users are to reject the pages at the home page because the visuals fail to stimulate an interest in them, then the quality and appropriateness of the content and ease of use become irrelevant" (p. 43).

In the current economic downturn, the academic library, like all libraries, is being asked to justify its relevance, and, in this environment, a successfully designed library home page becomes even more important. A library home page that is designed from the perspective of the artist-librarian — who knows how to apply the basic principles of art — will better serve the academic community by delivering information quickly and efficiently to its users. ►►

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Mindful leadership

by Lyn Hopper

*Do you have the patience to wait
till your mud settles and the water is clear?
Can you remain unmoving
till the right action arises by itself?
The Master doesn't seek fulfillment.
Not seeking, not expecting,
she is present, and can welcome all things.*

— **Lao Tzu**¹

The Need for Mindfulness

There is a new normal for library leaders, managers and staff. Increasingly, we have a short-term focus. We have less time for ourselves and less time for reflection. Demands are increasing while budgets are shrinking. And our organizations do not typically emphasize renewal. "Instead of encouraging the practices of mind, body, heart and behavior that support renewal, our organizations unknowingly reward behaviors designed to deplete rather than replenish our resources, leading to dissonant, the opposite of resonant, leadership."² Mindfulness, while it may seem even harder to practice under such conditions, is more important than ever for effectiveness.

Most of us have what the Buddhists call "monkey mind" most of the time. That is, our thoughts are like monkeys, leaping from tree to tree, chattering wildly and distracting us from what we are doing. Managing our attention in the modern environment of excessive distraction and information overload is critical to our health and happiness. Psychologist Ellen Langer asserts that mindfulness on the job can "increase our flexibility, productivity, innovation, leadership ability and satisfaction."³

What Is Mindfulness?

The concept of mindfulness comes from Buddhism, and

Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh has written about it extensively. It is a technique that has been employed to successfully reduce stress and promote healing, most conspicuously by Dr. Jon Kabat-Zinn in his Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction program at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

"Mindfulness is the process of deliberately paying attention to the present moment in a nonjudgmental way," says Kabat-Zinn.⁴ Adam Mentzell is the director of human resources for the audio publishing company Sounds True. He defines mindfulness as "the art of paying attention and seeing things in a fresh and nonhabitual manner."⁵

Mindfulness not only helps us focus our attention, but may open us to possibilities and lead to better decision making. "According to ... Langer, mindfulness is a habitual state of mind in which old schemas are continually re-examined and redefined ... Mindfulness includes openness to multiple points of view and a focus on process rather than outcome."⁶

Mindful Leadership

One of the dangers in leadership is a strong identification with a particular vision for an organization or one's own point of view, leading to a sort of tunnel vision in which other perspectives and possibilities are not considered. Schwenk warns, "Mindless identification may cause managers to think too narrowly about business problems and to focus only on information and solutions that do not threaten their image of the business ... When strongly identified individuals face decisions, they won't think about the decision from the perspective of multiple identities."⁷

Mindfulness may expand a leader's perceptions and lead to authenticity. "Deep knowledge about yourself enables

you to be consistent, to present yourself authentically, as you are. We trust — and follow — people who are real, who are consistent, whose behavior, values and beliefs are aligned. We trust people whom we do not constantly have to second-guess ... Through purposeful, conscious direction of our attention, we are able to see things that might normally pass right by us, giving us access to deeper insight, wisdom and choices."⁸ Clawson says, "When your center is clear and focused, you are more likely to have a powerful influence on others." It is significant that in his list of six steps to effective leadership, "clarifying your center" is number one.⁹

Mindfulness can also help ensure that leaders are taking responsibility for their own contribution to organizational difficulties. "In high-pressure situations...many people point outward: They find reasons for their problems outside of themselves. They blame others or the situation and they look for excuses. Good leaders point inward. They take personal responsibility for what is happening and what needs to be done, even when circumstances play a definitive role..." Boyatzis and McKee suggest that leaders ask themselves, "What is my part in creating this situation and what do I, personally need to do about it?"¹⁰

David Lee urges, "If you're serious about improving your ability to motivate and engage your employees, if you're interested in making it safe for people to speak honestly and openly, practice cultivating mindfulness."¹¹ Langer sums up mindful leadership this way: "Mindfulness is attunement to today's demands to avoid tomorrow's difficulties."¹²

Getting Started by Stopping

Mindfulness is more about being in touch with who you already are than about improving yourself, according to Brusman. "You're developing a profound sense of honesty — the strongest foundation for genuine leadership, which creates authenticity in your efforts to lead others."¹³

Boyatzis and McKee say that leaders often feel power stress, which means "subordinating everything to your own wants and needs. Compassion involves understanding others and acting to address their needs ... For the leader feeling the effects of power stress, the place to start is by courageously asking a few basic questions: What am I doing here? What am I out to accomplish? Is this what I want in life? Am I being true to myself? Am I happy?"¹⁴ McKee and Massimilian agree: "For many leaders, simply stopping to ask the question,

'How am I, really?' is in and of itself a kind of breakthrough, a detour from the path of frantically reacting."¹⁵

When problems arise, leaders may be accustomed to moving quickly to solutions. But Heider suggests another approach. "When you are puzzled by what you see or hear, do not strive to figure things out. Stand back for a moment and become calm ... push less, open out and be aware. See without staring. Listen quietly rather than listening hard. Use intuition and reflection rather than trying to figure things out."¹⁶ A helpful acronym for mindfulness practice is S-T-O-P, that is, Stop what you are doing, Take a conscious breath, Observe your bodily sensations, and then Proceed with whatever you were doing.¹⁷

This spacious and mindful approach can actually facilitate organizational health. Tulku says, "When we recognize the quality of our feelings and emotions and come to see clearly the results of our actions, we discover that our very lack of awareness has contributed to our problems ... By working on ourselves, by coming to know ourselves better, and then by sharing our growing strength with others, we create a base of support that helps to make our lives, and the world, a better place to be."¹⁸ ►►

*Something we were withholding made us weak,
until we found out that it was ourselves.*

— **Robert Frost**

Lyn Hopper has retired after more than 25 years of service in Georgia public libraries. She is the owner of Lyn Hopper Consulting (<http://lynhopper.com>) in Dahlgonega.

Notes

¹ George Ambler, "The Practice of Mindfulness," July 18, 2007, in *The Practice of Leadership* (blog), <http://www.thepracticeofleadership.net/2007/07/18/the-practice-of-mindfulness/> (accessed December 21, 2009).

² Annie McKee and Dick Massimilian, "Resonant Leadership: A New Kind of Leadership for the Digital Age," *Journal of Business Strategy*, 27 (2006): 5.

³ Ellen Langer, *Mindfulness* (Reading, Massachusetts: Addison-Wesley, 1989), 133.

⁴ Ozum Uco, "Transparency, Communication and Mindfulness," *Journal of Management Development* 25 (2006): 1027.

⁵ Shari Caudron, "Meditation and Mindfulness at Sounds True," *Workforce* 80 (June 2001): 44.

⁶ Charles Schwenk, *Managing Mindfully: Buddhism and Business*, <http://www.buddhismandwork.com/> (accessed December 30, 2009), 94-95.

⁷ Ibid., 92-93.

⁸ Ibid.

- ⁹ James G. Clawson, *Level Three Leadership: Getting Below the Surface*, 2d ed. (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2003), 94.
- ¹⁰ Richard Boyatzis and Annie McKee. "In a Bad Spot? Try Mindfulness," *Working Knowledge for Business Leaders* (2005), <http://hbswk.hbs.edu/archive/5069.html> (accessed December 30, 2009).
- ¹¹ David Lee, "Manager Mindfulness and Employee Morale," September 8, 2008, in *The Mindful Manager* (blog), <http://mainebusiness.maine-today.com/blogentry.html?id=7688> (accessed December 30, 2009).
- ¹² Ellen Langer, *Mindfulness* (Reading, Massachusetts: Addison-Wesley, 1989), 152.
- ¹³ Maynard Brusman, "Leadership Development for Mindful Leaders — Becoming a Mindful Leader," February 13, 2009, in *Leadership Development for Mindful Leaders - Becoming a Mindful Leader EzineArticles.com*. <http://ezinearticles.com/?Leadership-Development-For-Mindful-Leaders-Becoming-a-Mindful-Leader&id=1990910> (accessed December 30, 2009).
- ¹⁴ Boyatzis and McKee, "In a Bad Spot?" 27.
- ¹⁵ McKee and Massimilian, "Resonant Leadership," 47.
- ¹⁶ John Heider, *The Tao of Leadership: Leadership Strategies for a New Age* (New York: Bantam, 1985), 27.
- ¹⁷ Amanda Sinclair, *Leadership for the Disillusioned: Moving Beyond Myths and Heroes to Leading That Liberates* (Sydney, Australia: Allen & Unwin, 2007), 116.
- ¹⁸ Tarthang Tulku, "Coping with Change," In *Mindfulness and Meaningful Work: Explorations in Right Livelihood*, ed. Claude Whitmyer (Berkeley, CA: Parallax Press, 1994), 171, 174.

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Inaugural Georgia Libraries Photo Contest a success

Victoria “Vickie” Horst has been a photography buff for many years, and her interest paid off in February when her entry was judged the overall “Best Photo” in the inaugural Georgia Libraries Photo Contest.

Jointly sponsored by the Georgia Library Association (GLA), Georgia Public Library Service, Georgia Association for Instructional Technology and Georgia Library Media Association, the contest encouraged library supporters to show their love for Georgia’s libraries — and win a prize valued at \$100 in the process.

“I’m thrilled,” said Horst, who serves as director of the Tifton-Tift County Public Library, part of the Coastal Plain Regional Library System. “I have been taking pictures for almost 15 years, and this is the first time I have won a photography contest.

“Gabriela Meneses came to the library as part of a joint program with the Tifton Museum of Arts and Heritage called ‘Peru: The Tifton Connection: Culture, Art and Caring.’ The program gave the citizens of Tifton a fantastic opportunity to experience

aspects of Peruvian culture on a very personal level. There were opportunities to try food, to learn about native crafts and to look at some brilliant photography of the country. Her native costume was absolutely stunning; it would have been a shame not to have taken this

picture of her reading to these children.”

More than 70 entrants submitted photos of magical library moments that were captured digitally between Jan. 1 and Feb. 14 of this year. A panel of judges selected the winners and honorable mentions representing each of 10 categories.

From the category winners, judges then selected Horst’s photo as “best overall” and awarded her the grand prize of a library/reading gift basket valued at \$100 from GLA and a certificate suitable for framing. First-place winners from the remaining categories received a certificate and a gift bag containing an assortment of library-related gifts; honorable mentions received certificates.

A series of posters incorporating all winning photos was displayed during Georgia Library Day at the state Capitol on March 10.

“These photos made for a wonderful display,” said Julie Walker, deputy state librarian. “They certainly drew the attention of our legislators and



Best overall and winner of best photo of a library-sponsored or Friends-sponsored event — *Wearing a costume native to her country, Gabriela Meneses of Peru reads to a number of young patrons, including (from left) Adonnis Easton-Tolbert, Kourtland L. Tolbert, Shakeria Eckford and Mariya Browlee, at the Tifton – Tift County Public Library on Feb. 12. (Photo by Victoria Horst)*



Winner: Best photo of an adult reading — Library patron and volunteer Wanda Scott Wilson is surprised by the interest shown in her book by Elsie, the library cat. Elsie was living under the bookmobile at the LaGrange Memorial Library until she was rescued by staff members there and came to live at the Harris County Public Library, where she is one of the most requested library staff members. (Photo by Debra Marino)

helped us show them how much Georgians value libraries and library services.”

Winning photographs also will be displayed and their creators recognized at the 2010 Georgia Council of Media Organizations (COMO) conference in Athens this fall.

The complete list of winning photographers is as follows:

Best photo of an adult or adults reading

1st Place: Debra Marino, Harris County Public Library

Honorable Mention: Rattaporn Lloyd, Athens Technical College, Athens Campus

Best photo of a student or students reading

1st Place: Rattaporn Lloyd, Athens Technical College, Athens Campus

Honorable Mention: Christine Tighe, Stone Mountain High School

Best photo of a child or children reading

1st Place: Martha Goodson, Neva Lomason Memorial Library, Carrollton

Honorable Mention: Margery Bouris, Whitesburg Public Library



Winner: Best photo of a student or students reading — From left: Athens Technical College students Rattaporn Lloyd, Justin Fields, John Seymour and Joseph Thomas show that everyone is allowed access to the library regardless of age, race or nationality. Students use the library to connect with friends — and make new ones. (Photo by Rattaporn Lloyd)



Winner: Best photo of a person using a public-access computer in a library — Hannah Downs, 8, with her plush toy Husky at her side, studies at one of the public-access computers in the Whitesburg Public Library. (Photo by Margery Bouris)

Best photo of a person using a talking book center

1st Place: David Evans, Northwest Georgia Talking Book Library, Rome
Honorable Mention: Wanda Daniel, Talking Book Center, Dublin

Best photo of a person using a public-access computer in a library

1st Place: Margery Bouris, Whitesburg Public Library
Honorable Mention: Martha Goodson, Neva Lomason Memorial Library, Carrollton

Best photo of a library-sponsored or Friends-sponsored event

1st Place: Victoria Horst, Tift County Public Library, Tifton
Honorable Mention: Margery Bouris, Whitesburg Public Library

Best photo showing library advocacy/support in action

1st Place: Chuck Anderson of Acworth
Honorable Mention: Amanda Kiriakos, Athens Technical College, Elbert County Campus

Best exterior photo of a library
1st Place: David Morris Jr., North Georgia College & State University
Honorable Mention: Kathi Fly, Woodstock Public Library

Best interior photo of a library

1st Place (three-way tie): Elizabeth Bagley, McCain Library, Agnes Scott College, Decatur; Martha Goodson,

Neva Lomason Memorial Library, Carrollton; and Jean Wyant, Central Library, Newnan.

Best photo of a librarian

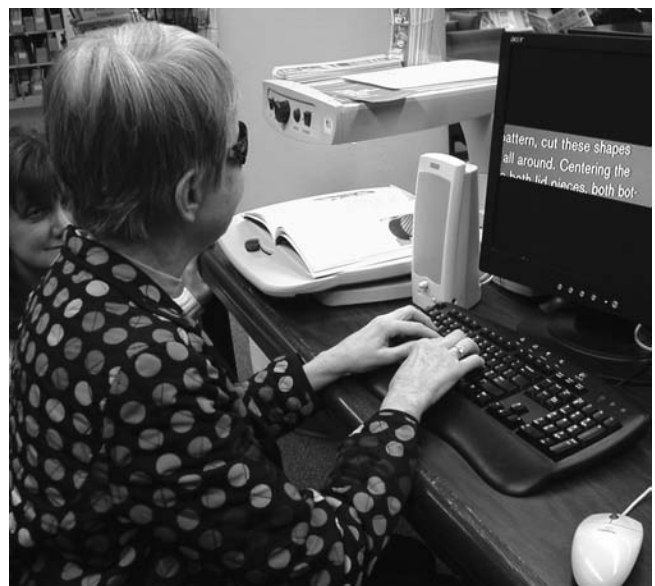
1st Place: Martha Goodson, Neva Lomason Memorial Library, Carrollton
Honorable Mention: Chuck Anderson, R.T. Jones Memorial Library, Canton ►►



Winner: Best exterior photo of a library — Built in 2008, the Library Technology Center at North Georgia College & State University in Dahlonega, is now the centerpiece of the campus. The facility houses the school's writing center, IIT hub, study rooms and a café. (Photo by David Morris Jr.)



Winner: Best photo of a librarian — Reference Librarian Sarah Boyd of the Neva Lomason Memorial Library sits surrounded by all the tools of her trade. Answering an average of 50 reference questions each day, via phone, e-mail, and in person, Boyd keeps busy in between teaching computer classes, researching genealogy questions, and placing holds on books. (Photo by Martha Goodson)



Winner: Best photo of a person using a talking book center — Delana Hickman (left) helps patron Deana Wallace use one of the Northwest Georgia Talking Book Library's accessible computers. (Photo by David Evans)



Winner (tie): Best interior photo of a library — The new book shelf at the Neva Lomason Memorial Library in Carrollton. (Photo by Martha Goodson)



Winner (tie): Best interior photo of a library — McCain Library's Kate Durr Elmore Reading Room at Agnes Scott College. (Photo by Elizabeth Bagley)



Winner (tie): Best interior photo of a library — The main area customers see upon entering the Coweta County Library, the Community Commons, was designed to be a welcoming space for patrons to browse for reading material. (Photo by Jean Wyant)



Winner: Best photo showing library advocacy/support in action — State Librarian Dr. Lamar Veatch talks about the state's public libraries with Rep. Gerald Green (D - Cuthbert). (Photo by Chuck Anderson)

*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

Advocates turn out for Georgia Library Day

On the heels of a two-week postponement due to a legislative break, nearly 150 library advocates braved a series of morning downpours March 10 to voice their love for and support of libraries with members of the Georgia General Assembly.

With Georgia Library Day originally scheduled for Feb. 25, the event's sponsors — Georgia Library Association (GLA), Georgia Association for Instructional Technology, Georgia Library Media Association and

Georgia Public Library Service — had to scramble for a makeup date when the General Assembly adjourned Feb. 18 and began a two-week break from the legislative session to work on balancing the Fiscal Year 2011 budget.

All worked out in the end, however, with even Gov. Sonny Perdue joining in the festivities by signing a proclamation declaring March 10 Georgia Library Day. State Librarian Dr. Lamar Veatch formally accepted the procla-

mation from the governor at 11:00 a.m. in the Capitol.

A number of speakers addressed the crowd, including Sen. Jack Hill (D-Reidsville), chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Sen. Seth Harp (R-Midland), chairman of the Senate Higher Education Committee.

"With good libraries, we can do anything," Harp said, as he explained Georgia's need to build and maintain a highly educated work force. "We compete with the world, and an educated Georgia is the linchpin in our future success. Libraries are critically important as a source of knowledge, and knowledge is power."

Following the morning presentations, attendees visited the state Capitol to speak with elected officials, then returned to the Floyd Building for lunch with their legislators.

According to Carol Stanley, president of GLA, the sponsoring organizations hoped to convince legislators of the need to maintain FY2009 budget levels for the state's public libraries and to recognize all types of libraries and the value of their combined services to all citizens.

"We have wonderful advocates across the state," said Veatch, "and their



From left: Carol Stanley; Judy Serritella, coordinator of library media services for the Georgia Department of Education; and Dr. Lamar Veatch accept Gov. Sonny Perdue's Georgia Library Day proclamation. (Photo by David Baker)

presence at Georgia Library Day this year, especially in light of tight budgets and troubling economic times, made a powerful statement to our elected officials that Georgia's citizens believe in the value of their libraries."

The text of the governor's proclamation is as follows:

GEORGIA LIBRARY DAY

WHEREAS: Libraries are places of opportunity and lifelong learning for everyone and offer an environment filled with resources to explore. They provide citizens with the knowledge and information they need to live, learn and work in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS: Public, academic, school, governmental and specialized libraries in Georgia provide excellent and invaluable service to library users regardless of age, ethnicity or socio-economic background in every county in Georgia; and

WHEREAS: Librarians and library support staff provide knowledgeable support in person and online, as well as personal service and expert assistance in finding what is needed when it is needed; and

WHEREAS: Libraries play an active role in building the community by offering a place where people may learn together; by preserving local history and heritage; by opening their doors to civic organization and community meetings; by hosting programs and exhibits that introduce new cultures, perspectives and ideas; and by providing free Internet access to every community; and

WHEREAS: Libraries provide access to books and technology to children in their schools and communities whereas they would not have access otherwise. Schools with professional school librarians have higher achievement scores than those without; and

WHEREAS: Georgia's libraries provide

unparalleled access to information and materials through the nationally recognized and award-winning GALILEO and PINES resource-sharing programs, used by Georgians of all ages; now

THEREFORE: I, Sonny Perdue, governor of the state of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 10, 2010, as **LIBRARY DAY** in Georgia. ►►



More than three dozen of the nearly 150 library advocates who attended Library Day paused for a group photo under the Capitol dome.

Georgia Southern news and notes

In late October, Henderson Library's Associate Dean Ann Hamilton served as a citizen ambassador on behalf of libraries as part of a People to People trip to South Africa.

Head of Information Services Jocelyn Poole interviewed Bongiwe Nkabinde, now public library manager in Johannesburg, South Africa, in the September 2009 issue of *The Journal of Pan African Studies*. Nkabinde recounted her struggles as a black librarian under apartheid.

Collection Development & Assessment Librarian Jonathan Harwell delivered a paper on the ethnohistory of Quakers in Savannah and Statesboro at the Southern Anthropological Society's annual meeting in Savannah in late February and will do a presentation on "OARS: Toward Automating the Ongoing Subscription Review" at the Acquisitions Institute at Timberline Lodge, Portland, Ore., in May.

Recent collections coming into Special Collections for boxing and inventorying have been those of late Georgia Southern personnel. The papers of history professors Frank Saunders (expert on Georgia history) and David Ward (expert on Alabama history) are now in process, and the papers of Kirbylene Stephens, for decades the secretary to the president, have been completed. ►►

Kennesaw State news and notes

The Center for Conflict Management at Kennesaw State University in partnership with the Paulding County Library and Chattahoochee Technical College hosted The Big Read during March. We worked with the library and with other community groups to encourage a love for education and reading in the region. KSU is one of 269 nonprofits nationwide participating in The Big Read, an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The NEA presents The Big Read in partnership with the

The Library

by Terra Elan McVoy

New York loneliness in my mouth
like a pungent cheese to savor —
the sun slanting
on the empty floor.
No one waiting for me to meet
them,
no one will be waiting
for me to come home —

I remember
three little girls,
three canvas bags,
their seams pulled tight,
heavy with books.

And this —
Mike Bailey and his
dark denim jacket.
Three hours of Dungeons and
Dragons
I neither follow
nor enjoy.
Emerging into the sunlight,
still it is a surprise
— this afternoon will not end
in kissing.

And, always —
the long mural of indigo and violet
unfurling the length
of the children's room —
an expanse my small hand moved
over,
languid and satisfied,
like that of a woman
dangling her fingers
to trail in the water
from the edge of a boat, rowed
by someone she loves.

It does not take long:
59th Street subway,
fast walk a few blocks,
and then the anonymity of
fluorescent stacks
becomes a familiar, deep pool
in which I am fully submerged.
I am only
a hand, lifting,
choosing,
not this one but that —
finding and then not finding,
and finding something else.

For hours I am
lost.
Found.
Dissolved.

Nowhere else has solitude ever
been so pleasing
— so soothing and luxurious.
Nowhere else grants this comfort-
ing power
to enter,
pause,
and disappear. ►►

Decatur-based author Terra Elan McVoy composed this poem in honor of the new Tucker-Reid H. Cofer branch of the DeKalb County Library. She read it to the crowd at the opening ceremony for the branch on Jan. 25. McVoy's latest book is Pure.

Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with Arts Midwest. Support for The Big Read is provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

We read *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* by Carson McCullers, a Georgia author, as well as a selection of complementary books, such as *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd and *The Other Side* by Jacqueline Woodson. For more information about The Big Read events sponsored by The Center for Conflict Management at KSU, please visit our Web site at www.kennesaw.edu/conflict or contact Shauna Carmichael at 770-423-6299 or bigread@kennesaw.edu. »»

University of Georgia news and notes

The ground-breaking ceremony for the new Special Collections Libraries Building took place on Jan. 28. The construction schedule is about 18 months. It will house three Special Collections Libraries:

- Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library
- Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies
- Walter J. Brown Media Archives and Peabody Awards Collection

The building will be named in honor of Richard B. Russell Jr.



The atrium of the Special Collections Libraries Building

These Special Collections libraries are currently housed in the Main Library, which does not provide adequate space, climate or security. The move to this new building will free up 50,000 square feet of space in the Main Library, which is needed to provide space for our general collections and study space for our students.

The cost is \$46 million, two-thirds of which comes from the state, and one-third from private sources. We have also raised \$7 million for program endowments. »»

Ingram Library of UWG news and notes

E. Lorene Flanders has been appointed professor and dean of libraries at the University of West Georgia, and

Chris Huff has been appointed associate professor and associate dean of libraries. Flanders was appointed director of University Libraries at West Georgia in 2005. Huff was appointed systems librarian at West Georgia in 1994 and associate director of University Libraries in 2009.

Miriam Nauenburg has been appointed instructor and serials and electronic resources cataloger at the University of West Georgia. Nauenburg holds the MLIS degree from Wayne State University and the B.A. in English and biology from Eastern Michigan University. She served as interlibrary loan and serials librarian for Orchard Lake Schools prior to her appointment at West Georgia and previously held library positions at Ashland Theological Seminary and the University of Michigan-Dearborn. She is a member of the American Library Association and the American Theological Library Association.

Catherine Hendricks, coordinator of proposal development for Ingram Library at the University of West Georgia, received the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board's Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records at the Graduate Level award for her thesis *Creating Community in the Jim Crow South: A Study of an African American Neighborhood in Powder Springs, Georgia, 1930-1960*. Hendricks received the M.A. in history and a graduate Certificate in Public History from the University of West Georgia in 2008 prior to joining the Ingram Library staff. She holds the Master of Social Work and the Bachelor of Arts in journalism from the University of Georgia, as well as the Bachelor of Arts from Mercer University.

Dr. Patterson Toby Graham, director of the Digital Library of Georgia, presented the 2010 Charles Beard Lecture at the Irvine Sullivan Ingram Library, University of West Georgia, in February. The lecture, "The Civil Rights Digital Library: Documenting America's Struggle for Racial Equality" honored Charles Beard's leadership in the development of GALILEO.

The Civil Rights Digital Library, built by the Digital Library of Georgia and its partners, is an online archive of historical news film from the civil rights era and a virtual library portal of national scope. It is the most ambitious and



Catherine Hendricks, Ingram Library, University of West Georgia, recently received an award from the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board at the Georgia Archives.

comprehensive initiative to date to deliver educational content on the Civil Rights Movement via the Web.

The Digital Library of Georgia is Phase 3 of the GALILEO project, which was outlined in 1995 and celebrates its 15th year of providing information resources in 2010. ►►

Valdosta State news and notes

In response to January's earthquake in Haiti, Valdosta State University librarian Cliff Landis pledged to match up to \$10,000 worth of donations to help quake victims. He set up a donations site through the charitable organization Partners in Health, and within three days, the goal was met. As of this writing, \$21,475 was donated as a result of Cliff's efforts.

The initiative was reported on by *The Huffington Post*, *Library Journal* and *The Valdosta Daily Times*, among others. Cliff blogs at clifflandis.net. ►►

Athens Regional news and notes

Laura Carter, an Athens-Clarke County Library librarian, was recently honored by the Georgia Genealogical Society with the Elizabeth Haulbrook Taylor Award.

Carter was presented with the award at the society's Dec. 5 annual meeting.

The Elizabeth Haulbrook Taylor Award is given annually by the Georgia Genealogical Society (GGS) to the GGS member who has donated the most volunteer time to GGS projects and who is not a current member of the GGS board.

Elizabeth Haulbrook Taylor (1928-2002), for whom the award is named, was a generous genealogist who shared her large collection of research materials with anyone she could help. An Alpharetta resident, she held several offices on the board of the Georgia Genealogical Society.

Carter, who has been with the library since 1997, works in the Athens-Clarke County Library's Heritage Room. The



Carter

Heritage Room houses an extensive research collection of local history, Georgia history and genealogical resources. The Athens-Clarke County Library is located at 2025 Baxter Street in Athens.

For more information about the Heritage Room, call 706-613-3650, ext. 350, or log on to <http://www.clarke.public.lib.ga.us>. ►►

Atlanta-Fulton news and notes

In partnership with *Library Journal*, Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System will host the seventh Design Institute on April 30 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. The free event will take place at the AFPL Central Library at One Margaret Mitchell Square in Atlanta.

A one-day think tank on library buildings and design, the educational seminar will bring together leading architects, librarians and vendors to address the challenges and opportunities of building new and renovating or retrofitting existing buildings. The day will provide an abundance of information on green design practices and cost-saving tactics as well as focus on designing specific spaces (technology centers, work/study spaces, teen centers, etc.). The program is limited to 100 attendees.

For more information and to register, visit: www.LibraryJournal.com/designinstituteGA.

Gayle Holloman has been named the Central Library administrator for the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System. In that position, she will provide leadership and management of eight departments at the Central Library. Holloman has been with the library system since 1994, beginning her library career as a volunteer docent leading visitors on tours during the opening of the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American History and Culture. Subsequently, she was hired as a paraprofessional for Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System. While working in that capacity, she earned the MLIS, became a children's librarian, young adult librarian, branch manager, reference department manager, and librarian principal. She helped open both the East Atlanta Branch and the Ocee Branch within the Library System. She has also served on numerous committees during her tenure. Additionally, she served as deputy co-chairperson of the Local Arrangements Committee of the ALA Conference held in Atlanta in June 2002. Ms. Holloman is a member of the American Library Association and the Public Library Association. Holloman received her undergraduate degree in journalism with a minor in marketing from Georgia State University and the Master of Library and Information Studies from Clark Atlanta University. ►►

Chattahoochee Valley news and notes

Mildred L. Terry Public Library, a branch of the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries, has more than doubled the amount of computers at its branch – significantly expanding residents' access to the Internet – thanks to a \$200,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

With Knight Foundation support, the Mildred L. Terry Public Library has been able to create a “community center” environment where patrons have access to the Internet and an ever-growing range of activities and applications. “The communities served by the Mildred Terry Public Library have already benefited greatly from the new technology,” says Claudya Muller, director of the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries. “In addition to helping individual library users, local businesses have been taking advantage of the computers, copiers, printers and projection systems in the meeting rooms as well.”

“The library has always been about information and making it accessible to everyone. Today's libraries are the greatest providers of free Internet – offering residents access to the critical news and information they need to make decisions about their lives,” said Beverly Blake, Macon program director for the Knight Foundation. “Through this partnership with the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries, we hope to augment libraries' roles as vital community centers while helping to create engaged and informed communities.”

The \$200,000 grant is part of a \$5.5 million Knight Foundation initiative benefiting library users in 20 communities across the United States. The effort reinforces the sweeping recommendations by the Knight Commission on the Information Needs of Communities in a Democracy, a project of the Aspen Institute. In a report issued earlier this year, the commission asserts that democracy in America is threatened by the lack of equal access to quality information. Funding public libraries, as centers of digital and media training, is one key to filling the gaps, the commission says. Its report is available at www.knightcomm.org. ►►

Cobb County news and notes

The Merchant's Walk Library closed Jan. 22 and reopened as the East Cobb Library, Feb. 1 in its new location. A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place March 9.

The Cobb County Public Library System's East Cobb Library is located at 4880 Lower Roswell Road in Marietta



Left: East Cobb resident Nancy Clark volunteered to unpack books Jan. 21 at the new East Cobb Library opening Feb. 1. Clark, a volunteer with the Cobb County Public Library System for four months, said it is her way to give back to the community. Right: Marcy Nader, the former Merchant's Walk Library branch manager, now a library volunteer, shelves books Jan. 21 in the new East Cobb Library. Nader said, “It is so nice to move into a nice, clean, spacious library, and I am so glad to be a part of it.” (Photos by Erika Ruthman/CCPLS)

in the Parkaire Shopping Center, less than two miles from its previous location.

The East Cobb Library, designed to meet the current and future library needs of the community, is 16,684 square feet. The facility includes a multipurpose room, children's activity room, teen space, study rooms, vending area and self-checkout.

For information, visit the Cobb County Public Library System Web site at www.cobbcat.org. ►►

Northwest Georgia news and notes

More than 3,000 people from Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Alabama recently attended the Department of Labor's (DOL) North Georgia Career Expo and Job Fair at the Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center in Dalton. Tags from as far away as Houston County in Georgia were spotted in the parking lot. Deputy Regional Director Nick Fogarty and Dalton-Whitfield Public Library Manager John McPhearson represented Northwest Georgia Regional Library at the event, which the DOL called one of the largest ever held in North Georgia.

“During the four-hour event, we talked with nearly 300 people, ranging from as young as high school students to as mature as retirees looking to supplement their retirements,” said Fogarty. “There was no ‘typical’ job seeker. The need for a job has cut across all ages and professions. Although we were there to discuss using library computers and resources for job searching and applications, there were those that expressed interest in library careers – both professional and support staff.”

By the time the job fair opened its doors, the parking lot was full, and traffic was backed up to the I-75 exit, about one mile east of the Trade Center. The number of job seekers visiting the library booth far exceeded anticipated numbers, and more pathfinders and maps to the library had to be delivered by staff to the library booth.

One comment that was repeated time and again was from job seekers who stated that they started their careers when they didn't need a college degree and worked their way up in their industry. They are finding that their skills are not in great demand in today's economy.

Although DOL didn't intend for this event to become a multistate expo, DOL Commissioner Michael Thurmond was gratified that so many people hadn't given up hope in finding a new job or new career. Thurmond said DOL held the job fair in Dalton because the area is one of the hardest hit by the recession in Georgia. The Dalton metro area lost nearly 6,000 jobs in the 12-month period ending October 2009.

The Dalton-Whitfield Public Library is working with the Dalton-Whitfield Chamber of Commerce in encouraging job seekers to register for the Georgia Work Ready assessment. Fogarty is a member of the Chamber's work force development committee. "We want to be a part of the committee taking action to help our residents find jobs. We knew that, for many, the public library is their only access to computers for job searching. Hearing it firsthand from job seekers at the job fair was very sobering. People thanking us for 'being there' was very gratifying," he said. ►►

Friends of Georgia Libraries news, notes

The Friends of Georgia Libraries (FOGL) spring membership meeting and workshop will be held at the Coweta County Central Library in Newnan on Friday, April 23. "We are preparing an excellent program," said Bede Mitchell, FOGL president. "It will feature Lynne Bradley from ALA's Washington Office and author Amanda Gable, as well as the award presentation to our 'Best Friend of 2009.'"

The FOGL board of directors has also voted to present an additional award — the first 'FOGL Fabulous Friends Award' — at the meeting. This award will be presented to an organization that has achieved exemplary success in supporting its local library. The award includes a plaque, as well as \$150 for the organization and a free registration to the membership meeting. ►►



Librarian Ken Kozel (right) just returned from the American Library Association (ALA) Mid-Winter Conference in Boston. He was chosen as an ALA 2010 Emerging Leader. One hundred librarians from around the country were picked to participate in the program. Kozel's group will create a wiki and podcast for the International Committee on Archives, Libraries, and Museums and will serve on the D.C. Committee. Kozel will attend the ALA annual conference June in Washington, D.C. to present the group's project. Kozel graduated from the Valdosta State University MLIS Program in August 2009. He is currently head of the Randolph County Public Library in Cuthbert, part of the Kinchafoonee Regional Library System.

Resource sharing group nets 100 members

LYRASIS announced that LYRA, the new resource sharing group created in November to serve the entire LYRASIS area, including the New England, Southeast and Mid-Atlantic regions, has reached the 100-participant mark.

LYRA, an opt-in group open to all LYRASIS members, represents a major increase in free lending opportunities for members and now covers more than 22 states. Members of the group agree to borrow and lend returnable items (books and other resources) to other LYRA members for free.

"The excitement around LYRA and its rapid growth reflects the eagerness of LYRASIS members to collaborate with each other on a larger scale than ever before, across geographic boundaries and among very diverse libraries and cultural heritage institutions," said Russell Palmer, LYRASIS educational services librarian/LYRA coordinator.

LYRASIS members interested in participating in LYRA may contact LYRASIS Member Support at 800-999-8558 or e-mail membersupport@lyrasis.org. ►►



**Do you know someone whose
contributions to Georgia libraries and/or the
Georgia Library Association should be recognized
with a GLA award?**

**If so, take the time to nominate a
deserving individual today.**

**2010 GLA Awards Nominations
DEADLINE: May 10, 2010**

Each year at COMO, the Georgia Library Association seeks to honor
outstanding librarians, library staff members, and library advocates
through the following awards:

**Bob Richardson Award
Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award
Honorary GLA Memberships
Library Support Services Award
McJenkin-Rheay Award
Nix Jones Award
Nora Symmers Paraprofessional Award**

**Nomination form & description of awards available online:
http://gla.georgialibraries.org/comm_awards_nomination.htm**

Complete a nomination form and write a letter supporting the nomination.

You may provide additional documentation about the nominee's
contributions to libraries and/or GLA, but please limit the file to 10 pages.

By May 10, 2010, submit electronically (if possible) or mail to:

Elizabeth Bagley, GLA Awards Committee Chair
Agnes Scott College, McCain Library
141 East College Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030-3770

Phone 404-471-5277 / FAX 404-471-5037 / ebagley@agnesscott.edu

Off the SHELF

The Georgia Library Quarterly reviews books on aspects of life in Georgia and the South, including history, literature, politics, education and genealogy. Materials written by Southern authors or published by regional publishers may also be considered, as well as those on libraries and librarianship.

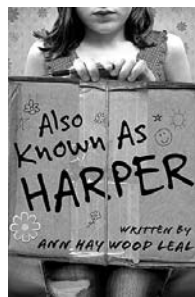
Brijin Boddy, Off the Shelf Co-editor, Chattahoochee Valley Libraries, bboddy@cvrls.net

Karen Odom, Off the Shelf Co-editor, Houston County Public Libraries, kodom@houpl.org

See more Off the Shelf reviews at http://gla.georgialibraries.org/glg_bookreviews.htm

FICTION

Also Known as Harper by Ann Haywood Leal (Henry Holt and Company, 2009; ISBN 978-0-8050-8881-6, \$16.99)



Have you ever been down on your luck and can't seem to get back on top? Well, that is exactly what has happened to fifth-grader Harper Lee Morgan. Since her father left, her mother has been struggling to pay the rent and put food on the table. Then, after a few missed rent payments, Harper and her family are now faced with the new realities of being homeless. The worst news for Harper comes when she must stay out of school to watch after her younger brother, Hemingway, missing the annual school poetry contest. Poetry has always been the one place where Harper can find solace and peace within her complicated life, and to miss the contest for the second year in a row is essentially devastating. To top it all off, Harper's schoolmate, neighbor and cruel archnemesis, Winnie Rae Early, makes it a daily ritual to squash Harper's hopes and dreams of a better situation for herself and her family. Leal's characters are detailed and emotionally intricate, forcing the reader to feel as if they are sharing in the same life struggles. Their trials and struggles of homelessness and rejection become your own. The antagonist of the novel is one readers will love to hate, with a Nurse Ratched-esque personality that will invoke

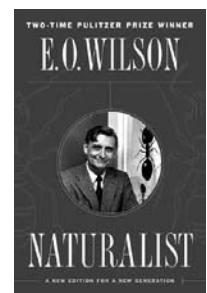
unfounded depths of anger within the reader's soul. However, in the end, it is delightful to see the family find strength in the written word: Harper's poetry or, more specifically, the great novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, a character in which Harper is named after. Intended for readers ages 9-12, *Also Known as Harper* is a heart-warming and triumphant tale for every literature buff. ►►

— Reviewed by **Jennifer Green**
Gwinnett County Public Library
Snellville Branch

NONFICTION

Naturalist by Edward O. Wilson (Island Press, 1994; ISBN 1-55963-288-7, \$30.00)

There are books that linger in the heart and mind yet languish on library bookshelves. They are neither new nor old but undeclared "classics" that deliver powerful story lines via eloquent, honest, easily accessible prose. It's good to be reminded of their existence and celebrate them again. Octogenarian Wilson's autobiography falls into this category. Names of outstanding scientists surface in the popular press every October like whales coming up for air when Nobel Prize winners are announced for chemistry, physics



and medicine/physiology. Then they promptly dive back into obscurity. What if you are the world's premiere evolutionary biologist and Alfred Nobel simply ignored or never envisioned your field? How does the public find out about you? Well, write an autobiography, preferably an award-winning one.

That is what the very shy Edward O. Wilson did by writing *Naturalist*. He is the Honorary Curator in Entomology at Harvard University and Pellegrino University Professor Emeritus there too. He is the winner of numerous science medals and two Pulitzer prizes in nonfiction literature. A childhood encounter with a pinfish cost him the sight of his right eye. It was pierced by a "needle like spine" from the flailing fish's dorsal fin. Here is how he describes the career choice made after this horrendous moment: "The attention of my surviving eye turned to the ground. I would thereafter celebrate the little things of the world, the animals that can be picked up between thumb and forefinger and brought close for inspection." (p. 15)

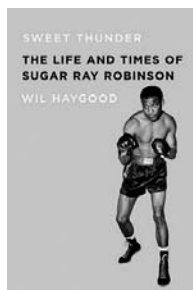
E.O. Wilson grew up in the American South. He was a lonely, curious child who sought the wild places in and near cities where his family lived, like Birmingham and Pensacola. Wilson studied the inhabitants of swamps and woodlands – especially ant colonies — with a doggedness that served him well as a field biologist in later life. A straight trajectory to Harvard and world renown as a myrmecologist (one who studies ants) seemed rather unlikely, yet he landed there and never left. ►►

— Reviewed by **JoEllen Broome**

*Zach S. Henderson Library
Georgia Southern University*

Sweet Thunder: The Life and Times of Sugar Ray Robinson by Wil Haygood (Alfred A. Knopf, 2009; ISBN 978-1-4000-4497-9, \$27.95)

Walker Smith Jr. was born in the rural south Georgia town of Ailey on May 3, 1921. His family moved to Detroit, then settled in Harlem where the teenage Walker was encouraged to participate in a Youth Boxing League. Entering and winning a league match at the last minute, under another boxer's name, he began fighting seriously. When a local sportswriter described him as a "sweet fighter" and nicknamed him "Sugar," Walker Smith Jr., age 16, became Sugar Ray Robinson and started his rise to the championship. Upon his death in 1989, Robinson's



statistics were impressive: 173 wins, 19 losses, six draws and multiple World Championships. His final legacy wasn't just in sports – he played jazz, danced and sang, and his friends were people who were changing the face of America – Lena Horne, Langston Hughes, Miles Davis, Joe Louis and Eleanor Roosevelt. His final legacy was his Youth Club – chartered in 1969, the Sugar Ray Robinson Youth Foundation provided programs for elementary and junior high school youth throughout the Los Angeles area. There were classes in ballet, drama, soccer, etiquette, fashion modeling. What wasn't taught was boxing; Robinson said he did not want to see children hitting each other.

The subtitle of *Sweet Thunder: The Life and Times of Sugar Ray Robinson* describes the book completely; for it is a biography of the man and the times he lived in, influenced and helped to change for the better. This is a biography not only for those who are interested in boxing, but also those who are interested in the social history of America in the 20th century and includes endnotes, source notes and a selected bibliography. Author Wil Haygood is an award-winning columnist for the Washington Post and has written two other biographies of notable African-American historical figures: *In Black and White: The Life of Sammy Davis Jr.* and *King of the Cats: The Life and Times of Adam Clayton Powell Jr.* Highly recommended for public libraries. ►►

— Reviewed by **Dusty Gres**

Director

Ochoopee Regional Library System

Carroll County, Georgia Pioneers: Sketches of Early Settlers of Carroll County, Georgia and Their Descendants Selected from Nineteenth-century Biographical Sources compiled by Myron Wade House (Myron Wade House, 2009; ISBN 978-0-98255-830-0, \$47.95, hbk.)

Former University of West Georgia Archivist Myron House is a Carroll County, Ga., historian. This work represents one of his projected series of histories of the area and its early settlers. The subtitle tells you exactly what you get: a collection of biographies, straight out of 19th-century sources. This makes the compilation relatively easy to assemble; no editorial hand is needed or desired, which may seem like a simple project on the face of it, but House's knowledge of early settlers is what makes the work possible. Some biographies do not mention Carroll County at all, but House includes a note at the end of the sketch that indicates why that particular biography appears in this volume; it is because of the subject's

relationship to another Carroll County resident (e.g., cf. "J. T. Musick"). The work will be of particular interest to genealogists and historians of Carroll County, Ga. A total of 212 men are profiled. Black-and-white portrait reproductions of 13 men accompany their sketch and are a nice touch. The biographical sketches detail the family members of the individuals profiled, of course, so in that way, women are represented. The source for each biography is noted at the end of each sketch.

House credits Ozzie Binion for the layout of this volume, but it leaves something to be desired. The text is too tight to the binding (typically 1 centimeter or less), while the outer margin is too large (typically 6 and one-half centimeters). If users of the work wish to photocopy a sketch, it may be difficult to get a page printed in its entirety, and the need to press the inner pages down on the copier will tear up the book over time. It would have been better if the main text was moved 4 centimeters closer to the edge of the page; perhaps that could be achieved in a subsequent printing. The volume is nicely finished in a quality hard binding. This adds to the cost of the volume, but it will allow the book to hold up on library shelves for years to come — a wise decision. A must-purchase for Georgia genealogical and local history collections. ►►

— Reviewed by **Shelley L. Smith**
Senior Cataloger
University of West Georgia

Southern Bedtime Stories by Tim McWhorter (Hearts on Fire Books, 2009; ISBN 978-1449590666, \$19.99)

Native West Georgian Tim McWhorter has done what many long to do, but never accomplish: putting the stories of your childhood and the tales of life lessons learned along the way down



in black and white. To this Yankee gal, this book reads like a primer on the mysterious creature known as the Southern man. It's all here: hemorrhoids, jock straps, urination, animal breeding, girls, moonshine stills, snakes, firecrackers, cats and sandboxes, telephoning fish, spotlighting deer and plenty of football, just to name a few ... all the traditional sources of male humor delivered by a man who grew up in Bowdon, Ga., as part of the baby boomer generation.

McWhorter tells of a time of innocence before the digital age. It's a slice of life, usually humorous, sometimes sentimental, occasionally preachy and potentially offensive. This is not eloquent, polished prose. McWhorter simply tells his stories as though he's sitting right next to you, speaking extemporaneously. Some editorial work would have been advisable here, as the text presents "your" for "you're"; "bridal" for "bridle"; "waist" for "waste"; "loosing" for "losing" (he does that one a great deal!); "stake" for "steak"; "roll" for "role"; "poll" for "pole"; "sowing" for "sewing" ... you get the idea. He notes in the dedication that the stories "are not up to professional grade in respect to proper English guidelines," but reflect the Southern dialect. A Southern dialect is fine, but malapropisms might have been corrected before publication.

Nonetheless, the charm of this book comes through despite the lack of editorial finesse. Mark Twain he's not, but his stories reflect his time and an utterly male point of view that will be timeless. Folks a hundred or two years from now could enjoy these stories. Southern men today will find his stories hilarious, and women will gain fresh insights. Recommended for general library fiction collections. ►►

— Reviewed by **Shelley L. Smith**
Senior Cataloger
University of West Georgia

Have you checked out the Georgia Library Association's home page lately? Take a look at <http://gla.georgialibraries.org/> for the new library profile feature, "Georgia Library Spotlight." Every six weeks, a new library will share information about its history, facilities, programs and specialties. If you're interested in seeing your library profiled, please e-mail Sarah Steiner at ssteiner@gsu.edu.

Also, don't forget that you're all welcome to post your GLA news to our blog, which feeds into the GLA home page and our Facebook page. Visit the site at <http://glanews.blogspot.com/> Username (E-mail): georgialibraryassociation@gmail.com Password: Georgialibraries (Note the "g" is capped and case-sensitive.) You can also submit your news to Sarah for posting.

<http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/infolit.html>



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